Samantha Gunson

100459101

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EDC 102

**FAE Philosopher Evaluations**

In chapters four and five, there was a lot of philosophers that had many different opinions about the education system and how it functions. There are also a few different philosophies with in the chapters that stuck out. The progressivism and constructivism sections had a lot of good information and ideas.

William James founded progressivism in the mid 1900s. James took these ideas from the pragmatism philosophy and modified and adapted them to his own beliefs and it than became the most influential educational belief in the United States at that time. As stated in the book progressivism is an educational philosophy that emphasizes that ideas should be tested by experimentation and that learning is rooted in questions developed by the learner. From my view this means that each way of learning/teaching should be used before deciding which is the best to use and that everything is focused on what the learners ask to learn and/or wish to focus on. Everything is based on what the learner needs in a hands-on setting. Progressivists would rather use experiences rather than teaching to students. I really agree with this philosophy because this is the way I also learn, I like to experience it rather than just be lectured the information that I need to know for my future. Progressivists also believe that they need to prepare students for change. I see this philosophy as a more science based learning style, as it is hands on. To me it is like the believers of this philosophy is more scientific theories, hands on, and human experiences are the best way to learn things. I agree with this 100% because I believe once you see something and than try it, it is the best way to learn how to do it especially if it is a science based subject.

As defined in the book, constructivism is an educational philosophy that emphasizes hands-on activity based teaching and learning during which students develop their own frames of thought. This philosophy really stuck out to me because this is the way I learn best in the school setting. The American Psychological Association (APA) encouraged teachers to use these techniques of teaching as it related to the students thoughts more than the teachers thoughts. While doing this it gives the students a more personal relation to the topic meaning they will better learn it, and it will stick with them much longer. This style of teaching is great for science based, problem based, and other topics where it is really hands-on and involved. Constructivism also goes along with progressivism where the learner is better off watching someone do it, helping them do it, doing it with a little help, doing it under supervision, than eventually doing it on their own. In my opinion, that is one of the best ways to learn something.

Progressivism and constructivism are very similar in the techniques of learning and how it is “monkey see, monkey do” type style. Each philosophy involves hands-on learning in an inclusive environment between the students and the teacher. These styles also are very related to the students learning types, and thoughts about each topic. This is important because if the student is interested in it and enjoys the topic they will be much more likely to participate and most importantly succeed.